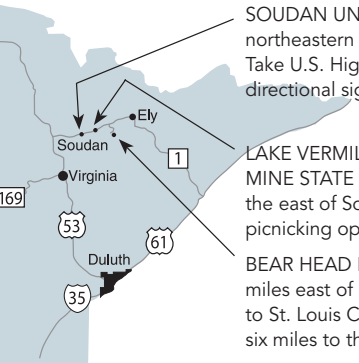
Area Attractions

- Bois Forte Heritage Museum, Tower
- The Depot Museum, Tower
- Eli Wirtanen Pioneer Farm, Markham
- Bear Head Lake State Park, Ely
- Dorothy Molter Museum, Ely
- North American Bear Center, Ely
- International Wolf Center, Ely

View from Lake Vermilion

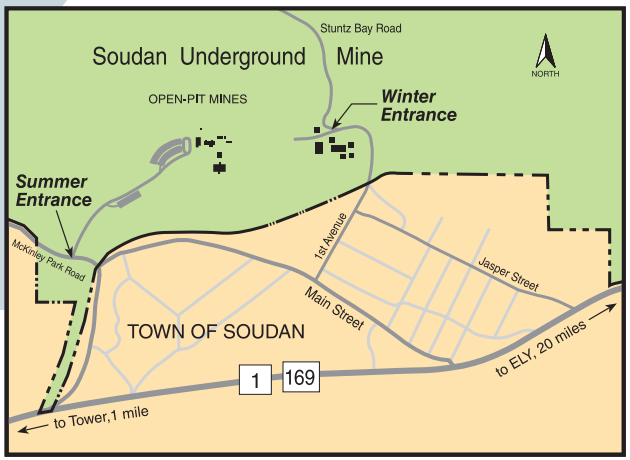
How to Get There



SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE is located in northeastern Minnesota in the town of Soudan. Take U.S. Highway 169 to Soudan and follow the directional signs to the mine.

LAKE VERMILION - SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE STATE PARK main entrance is 1.5 miles to the east of Soudan. It offers hiking, fishing and picnicking opportunities.

BEAR HEAD LAKE STATE PARK is located 16 miles east of Soudan. Take U.S. Highway 169 east to St. Louis County Highway 128. Take 128 south six miles to the park. Phone: 218-235-2520.



Contacting the Park

Lake Vermilion - Soudan Underground Mine State Park

Mailing Address and Winter Entrance:
P.O. Box 335
1379 Stuntz Bay Rd.
Soudan, MN 55782

Summer Entrance:
1302 McKinley Park Rd.
Soudan, MN 55782

218-300-7000
www.mndnr.gov/vermilionsoudan

Tour Reservations:
Online: www.mndnr.gov/reservations
Phone: 866-85PARKS (1-866-857-2757) Toll Free

School and group tours are available by reservation. Call the park office at 218-300-7000.

For More Information

Minnesota State Parks/DNR Information
Online: www.mndnr.gov
Phone: 888-MINNDNR (888-646-6367) Toll Free
651-296-6157 in the Twin Cities area

Minnesota State Parks Camping/Lodging Reservations
Online: mndnr.gov/reservations
Phone: 866-85PARKS (866-857-2757) Toll Free
International calls: 317-249-9327

Explore Minnesota Tourism
Online: www.exploreminnesota.com
Phone: 888-TOURISM (888-868-7476) Toll Free
651-296-5029 in the Twin Cities area

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This information can be made available in alternative formats such as large print, braille or audio tape by emailing info.dnr@state.mn.us or by calling 651-259-5016.

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MINNESOTA **STATE PARKS AND TRAILS**

SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE TOURS

LAKE VERMILION - SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE STATE PARK

Family-friendly fun:

- Descend a half mile below the Earth's surface.
- Ride a train deep within the mine to where miners worked.
- Discover secrets of the universe in our high-energy physics lab.

MNDNR **mndnr.gov/vermilionsoudan**

Welcome

Tour Minnesota's First Iron Ore Mine

Minnesota's first iron ore mine — the Soudan Mine — opened in 1882. Operations went underground by 1892 after numerous accidents.

The mine's value was in the special kind of ore it produced.

The ore's high oxygen content was used to make high-quality steel in open-hearth furnaces.

When technology changed, the ore from the mine was no longer needed. Low-cost ores of the Mesabi Range took over. Soudan Mine stopped mining ore in 1962.

Today you can explore the last level that the miners worked.

General Information

- The temperature of the mine is a constant 51° F. Warm dress and sturdy shoes are recommended.
- There are two narrow spiral staircases on the Underground Mine Tour, but all tours are ADA accessible. Call for details.
- Photographs are allowed underground.
- No bags or strollers underground.
- Surface buildings are open for exploration.
- The park has over five miles of hiking trails.

Soudan Underground Mine Tour Options

Underground Mine Tours

Daily tours Memorial Day weekend through the end of September and weekends in October through the annual Education Minnesota conference. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Experience the life of the miner as you travel by cage 1/2 mile underground.
- Ride the rails 3/4 mile to the former working area of the mine.
- Gain insight into the working conditions of the miners and their remarkable mining methods.
- Learn firsthand why this mine was called the Cadillac of Mines.

Physics Lab Tours

Daily tours Memorial Day weekend through the end of September and weekends in October through the annual Education Minnesota conference. Call for tour times.

- Follow the path of physicists from around the world as you travel 1/2 mile underground.
- Enter the high-tech laboratory as you help search for missing particles called dark matter.
- Discover how these elusive particles are being studied in the MINOS and CDMSII experiments.
- Experience the excitement of particle physics in action.